

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband,)	
Interoperable Public Safety Network in the)	PS Docket No. 06-229
700 MHz Band)	
)	
Development of Operational, Technical and)	
Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal,)	WT Docket No. 96-86
State and Local Public Safety Communications)	
Requirements Through the Year 2010)	

**COMMENTS OF THE FARGO (NORTH DAKOTA) METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
POLICE, FIRE AND EMS AGENCIES**

■ INTRODUCTION

We are the agencies that represent the Fargo Metropolitan Statistical Area. We are a consortium of eight law enforcement agencies, two city fire departments, twenty seven rural fire departments and six rural EMS providers in two states. We operate a multi-state regional Police, Fire and EMS Communications Center/PSAP. We utilize a multi-state regional mobile data communications system.

11. COMMENTS

Our agencies fully support the resolution passed by the Region 22 (Minnesota) Public Safety Regional Planning Committee (MN-RPC) on May 22, 2007, regarding comments to address the Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 07-72 (Further Notice), adopted by the Commission on April 25, 2007.

The Further Notice fails to address the needs of a significant, non-urban, geographic area of the country. It also removes the ability of local entities to build an affordable, wide area mobile data system which meets the coverage and performance specifications many non-urban agencies so desperately require.

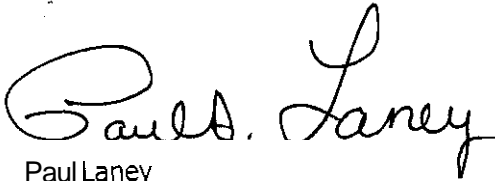
Historically commercial build out of national communications networks have not offered the level of coverage and resiliency in non-urban environments, which is required by public safety personnel. This is a primary reason why public safety personnel cannot rely upon these networks in a time of crisis. The Further Notice does not offer any assurances that a nationwide commercial broadband system would not follow the same build out template. Within the criteria of the Further Notice, a public safety high speed data network in rural America is unlikely to happen in a timely fashion, if ever.

Due to the absence of commercial network availability and resiliency, public safety agencies have traditionally built private, low speed data networks to serve wide area communications. The promise of **wideband 700 MHz** offers an affordable, high speed, wide area data network solution to local public safety agencies. The Further Notice removes this choice and relegates non-urban areas of the country to pursue the only financially viable offering, narrowband low speed data technologies.

Our agencies rely heavily upon timely and dependable transfer of information to our Officers in the field. Our current data system is well beyond its usable life cycle. We were directly involved in formulating the MN-RPC plan. The MN-RPC approved our request to acquire a FCC license for a wide band 700 MHz data system. Based on this approval and the fact that our request met the guidelines in place at the time, we began working on our application for the required license and initiated purchase and construction of a wide band data system. Failure to allow our agencies to operate a wide band system will severely impact our ability to provide emergency services to the residents of our communities.

III. SUMMARY

The Further Notice may offer relief to public safety personnel in urban areas of the country where the combination of population density and commercial viability of broadband may support it. But the Further Notice disregards the impact to not only our agencies, but to a large geographic segment of the country. It also imposes limits the options and choice of public safety agencies. For the reasons noted above, we oppose the changes recommended in the Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, FCC 07-72. We also recommend consideration of the MN-RPC usage and migration plan.



Paul Laney
Sheriff
Cass County North Dakota



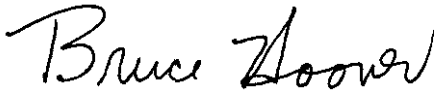
Bill Bergquist
Sheriff
Clay County Minnesota



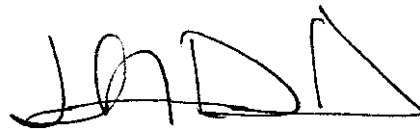
Keith Ternes
Chief of Police
Fargo North Dakota



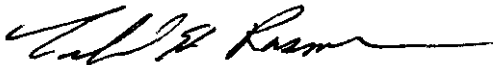
David Ebinger
Chief of Police
Moorhead Minnesota



Bruce Hoover
Fire Chief
Fargo North Dakota



Joel Hewitt
Fire Chief
Moorhead Minnesota



Arland Rasmussen
Chief of Police
West Fargo North Dakota